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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05650 190828Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-01 SIL-01 /070 W
---------- 045958
R 181713Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8264
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: COMMUNISTS WARN GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) LISBON 5613 (DTG 180904Z AUG 76), (B) LISBON 5557
(DTG 161616Z AUG 76), (C) LISBON 5504 (DTG 121710Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY: AN AUGUST 17 PCP STATEMENT STRONGLY ATTACKED THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. THE COMMUNISTS WARNED THAT THEY WILL OPPOSE ANY "ANTI-WORKER" MEASURES AND CAUTIONED THE SOCIALISTS ON THE RISKS OF A "RIGHTISTS-ORIENTED" GOVERNMENT. THE PCP OUTBURST WAS SPARKED BY SOARES'S BITING CRITICISM OF THE PCP IN HIS CONCLUDING PRESENTATION TO THE ASSEMBLY. THE PCP STATEMENT IS BOTH A WARNING AND A THREAT. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 05650 190828Z

1. COMMUNISTS ATTACK GOVERNMENT: THE PCP ISSUED
A STRONG STATEMENT AUGUST 17 ATTACKING THE COMPOSITION

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AND ORIENTATION OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT. HIGHLIGHTS:

-- THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ADOPT A "RIGHTIST ORIENTATION" IN SPITE OF THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR PORTUGUESE POLITICAL LIFE, THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME, AND REVOLUTIONARY CONQUESTS.

-- THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF "CAPITALIST, AGRARIAN, AND IMPERIALIST RECOVERY" WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING VIRTUALLY OPEN SUPPORT FROM THE PPD AND CDS IN THE ASSEMBLY.

-- MARIO SOARES'S CONCLUDING ASSEMBLY SPEECH (REFS A AND B) WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS "PRIMITIVE ANTI-COMMUNISM," CONFIRMING THE PREDOMINATELY RIGHTIST ORIENTATION OF THE PS GOVERNMENT. SOARES SOUGHT TO CONSOLIDATE THE ALLIANCES WITH THE PPD AND CDS.

-- THE PCP "WILL COMBAT ANTI-WORKER AND ANTI- POPULAR MEASURES" AND ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THE LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS OR THE CONQUESTS OF THE REVOLUTION.

-- THE PS SHOULD NOTE THE DANGERS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM A RIGHTIST POLICY. "PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY DOES NOT WANT THE FAILURE OF THE PS TO BECOME THE FAILURE OF DEMOCRACY ITSELF."

-- THE PCP WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK TO HALT THE ADVANCES OF THE RIGHT AND MAINTAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF A DEMOCRATIC LEFT POLICY. THE COMMUNISTS WILL SUPPORT POSITIVE MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

2. RC MEETING: PRIOR TO THE AUGUST 17 REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING, PRESIDENT EANES DENIED THAT FORMER REGIONAL COMMANDERS CHARAIS AND PEZARAT CORREIA HAD BEEN FORCED TO GIVE UP THEIR POSITIONS (REF B). HE SAID HE WOULD OPERATE WITHOUT AN ARMED FORCES VICE CHIEF FOR THE TIME BEING. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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PAGE 03 LISBON 05650 190828Z

-- VASCO LOURENCO WAS FORMALLY NAMED MILITARY GOVERNOR OF LISBON AND PROMOTED TO GENERAL . LOURENCO WILL ALSO SERVE AS INTERIM COMMANDER OF THE LISBON MILITARY REGION.

-- THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL NOMINATED JORGE MIRANDA AND LUIS NUNES DE ALMEIDA TO SERVE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION. MIRANDA, A 35-YEAR-OLD PPD DEPUTY, IS A RESPECTED CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER AND PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON. HE SERVED ON THE EANES CAMPAIGN STAFF. ALMEIDA, A MEMBER OF THE MARXIST-ORIENTED SOCIALIST

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INTERVENTION GROUP (GIS), WORKED WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS.

-- RC INTERNAL RULES (DRAFTED BY CDR ALMEIDA E COSTA) WAS APPROVED.

-- GEN JOSE JOAO NEVES CARDOSO WAS NAMED COMMANDER OF THE PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE (PSP) REPLACING COL FERNANDO CALDERA. CARDOSO, WHO WAS PROMOTED TO GENERAL IN JUNE 1976, HAS SERVED AS PSP COMMANDER FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1974 COUP.

3. SPINOLA: RC SPOKESMAN SOUSA E CASTRO CONFIRMED AUGUST 17 THAT SPINOLA WAS FREE WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS, BUT WILL STILL HAVE TO ANSWER CHARGES BEING DRAWN UP. SPINOLA'S LAWYER INDICATED HE WOULD DEPART IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR VACATION AT BUCACO IN CENTRAL PORTUGAL. SEVERAL HUNDRED GDUP "POPULAR POWER" DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTING SPINOLA'S RE-TURN MARCHED AUGUST 17 IN THE ALGARVE.

4. COMMENT: THE COMMUNISTS FELT OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO SOARES'S STRONG REMARKS IN HIS CONCLUDING SPEECH ON THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. THE PCP STATEMENT IS A STRONG REITERATION OF CUNHAL'S THREAT OF ACTIVE PCP-LED WORKER RESISTANCE TO "ANTI-LABOR" MEASURES.
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